(a) whether the Government are going to introduce a revised scheme of licensed dak agents in urban areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Department is proposing to introduce a revised scheme for Licensed. Postal Agents in urban areas in the near future. The details of the revised scheme are being formulated.

Telephone connections in Delhi

4979. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the residents of Gitanjali Park, Gali No. 6 (C), Sagarpur (West), New Delhi have registered their name for allotment of fresh telephone connections during January, 2003 with the Dwaraka Telephone Exchange; and

(b) what are the reasons for not providing the connections so far and by when the connections would be provided and the action being taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Sir, Seven connections were booked by the residents of Gitanjali Park, Gali No. 6 (C), Sagarpur (West), New Delhi during January, 2003 and all these connections have been released.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Telecom racket

4980. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 193 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th February, 2003 and state :

(a) the details of the individuals/organizations behind the telecom racket;

(b) the latest status of the investigations into the racket and the details of the persons booked so far; and

(c) the action proposed by his Ministry to have the investigations expedited and the offenders booked under the law so as to discourage such scandals in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) A company namely M/s World Callnet Pvt. Ltd., F-67, Green Park, New Delhi is involved in the case registered at Police Station, Special Cell, Lodhi Colony, New Delhi *vide* FIR No. 53/02 dated 12-9-2002.

(b) and (c) Investigation in the case has been completed by the Police. 4 persons namely S/Shri Surya Prakash, O.P. Nimani, Rajesh Malhotra and Amar Chaudhary have been arrested. The case has since been challaned on 8-4-2003 and is set to be filed by the Police in the Court for judicial verdict.

Use of particular brand of software

4981. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government specify the use of only a particular brand of software for all Government tenders in this sector;

(b) if so, the reasons for showing clear preference for only one type of software;

(c) to what extent Government have encouraged competition to get the best deal for the country;

(d) the steps being taken to avoid favouring only one type of software producer; and

(e) the details of the steps to encourage different types of software in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Choice of packaged software and development platform is made by the users and/or software developers keeping in view a number of factors including cost, features, availability of development tools, ease of maintenance, availability of service support etc. Given this context, Government has not been favouring any type of software product.